CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a request to transition control to a virtual machine (VM) from a virtual machine monitor (VMM);

determining that the request to transition control is associated with a request to be informed of an open event window of the VM, based on accessing a pending event indicator maintained by the VMM and determining that the pending event indicator maintained by the VMM is set to a delivery value;

transitioning control to the VM;

performing an event window check to determine whether the VM has an open event window; [[and]]

if the event window check indicates that the VM has an open event window, transitioning control to the VMM; and

if the VMM does not have an open event window, repeating the event window check after each instruction executed by the VM until determining that the VM has an open event window.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein transitioning control to the VMM comprises informing the VMM that control is transitioned to the VMM due to an open event window of the VM.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the event window check is initially performed before the VM executes any instructions.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the event window check is initially performed after the VM executes a first instruction.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

prior to determining that the VM has an open event window,

detecting a higher priority event associated with a transition of control to the VMM,

transitioning control to the VMM; and

informing the VMM that control is transitioned due to the higher priority event.

8. – 14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a data structure controlled by a virtual machine monitor (VMM), the data structure storing a pending event indicator associated with a pending event; and

open window logic, coupled to the data structure controlled by the VMM, to receive a request to transition control form the VMM to a virtual machine (VM),

determine that the request to transition control is associated with a request to be informed of an open event window of the VM, based on accessing a pending indicator maintained by the VMM and determining that the pending event indicator maintained by the VMM is set to a delivery value,

transition control to the VM,

determine whether an event window of the VM is open,

transition control to the VMM if the event window of the VM is open; and

if the VM does not have an open event window, repeat the event window check after each instruction executed by the VM until determining that the VM has the open event window.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the open window monitoring logic is further to inform the VMM that control is transitioned to the VMM due to an open event window of the VM.

17. (Canceled)

18. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the determining whether the event window of the VM is open is initially performed before the VM executes any instructions.

19. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a memory to store one or more pending event indicators; and

a processor, coupled to the memory, to use the one or more pending event indicators to:

receive a request to transition control from a virtual machine monitor (VMM) to a virtual machine (VM);

determine that the request to transition of control is associated with a request to be informed of an open event window of the VM, based on accessing the pending event indicator maintained by the VMM and determining that the pending event indicator maintained by the VMM is set to a delivery value;

transition cotnrol to the VM in response to the request to transition control to the VM From the VMM;

perform an event window check to determine whether an event window of the VM is open, [[and]]

transition control to the VMM if the event window check indicates that the event window of the VM is open; and

if the VM does not have an open event window, repeat the event window check after each instruction executed by the VM until determining that the VM has the open event window.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the processor is further to inform the VMM that control is transitioned to the VMM due to an open event window of the VM.

21. – 24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) A machine-readable storage medium containing instructions which, when executed by a processing system, cause the processing system to perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving a request to transition control to a virtual machine (VM) from a virtual machine monitor (VMM);

determining that the request to transition control is associated with a request to be informed of an open event window of the VM, based on accessing a pending event indicator maintained by the VMM and determining that the pending event indicator maintained by the VMM is set to a delivery value;

transitioning control to the VM;

performing an event window check to determine whether the VM has an open event window;

if the event window check indicates that the VM has an open event window, transitioning control to the VMM; and

if the VM does not have an open event window, repeating the event window check after each instruction executed by the VM until determining that the VM has an open event window.

26. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 25 wherein transitioning control to the VMM comprises informing the VMM that control is transitioned to the VMM due to an open event window of the VM.

27. – 30. (Canceled)